

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the first four paragraphs listed under the "Short description of photographs and figures" on page 4 of the specification with the following amended paragraphs:

~~Photograph-1~~ Figure 6 shows a photo illustration of the set up for a cavitation strength measurement.

~~Photograph-2~~ Figure 7 shows a photo illustration of the top fixture of the cavitation strength measurement set up.

~~Photograph-3~~ Figure 8 shows photographs of samples of two primary coatings with cavities.

~~Photograph-4~~ Figure 9 shows a photo illustration of the micrometer set-up used for the sample preparation for the cavitation strength measurement.

Please replace the third paragraph on page 8 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

The details of the apparatus for measuring the cavitation strength are further visualized in ~~Photograph-1~~ Figure 6. In particular, the apparatus is used for measuring the cavitation strength of a primary optical glass fiber coating and comprises, a tensile testing machine having a fixed plate to which a load cell with a lower end sample part (second member (20)) can be fixed, optionally further comprising a displacement transducer, and comprising a moving plate and a top fixture; either the top (first member (10)) sample part or lower sample part (second member (20)) being provided with means to adjust the parallelity of the sample to be perpendicular to the direction of the normal movement (see ~~Photograph-2~~ Figure 7), the apparatus being further provided with a microscope and preferably also a recorder fitted on said top (moving) plate, the compliance of the total set up of the apparatus being less than about 0.5  $\mu\text{m}/\text{N}$  (preferred ranges see above) and wherein the thickness of said top and lower sample part are about 2mm or more, preferably, about 3mm or more, more preferably, about 4mm or more.

Please replace the first paragraph on page 10 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

~~Photograph 3~~ Figure 8 shows the appearance of cavities in two samples of primary coatings A and B in a cavitation measurement as a function of the force applied. The cavities can have different forms depending on the type of primary coating. Coating A shows bubble-like cavities whereas coating B shows stripe-like cavities.

Please replace the second paragraph on page 31 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

The measurement set up consists of a digital tensile testing machine ZWICK 1484 with digital control and with a video camera fitted on the top (moving) plate of the machine (see ~~Photograph 4~~ Figure 6). The sample is held in place by a fixture connected to the load cell. The growth of the cavitations can then be followed in real time.

Please replace the first paragraph on page 33 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

The example was assembled as follows:  
A quartz cup was attached to the top plate of the two-plate micrometer using a vacuum system (vacuum pump) (~~Photograph 4~~ Figure 9).